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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claims 1-3 (Canceled).

4. (Currently Amended) A method of progressive image shifting for use in printing a multi-page document, comprising:

for each document page:

forming page image data into a plurality of independent strips, each of which is a full page in length in a fast scan direction and a number of scan lines in a slow scan direction;

compressing each of the plurality of independent strips, the plurality of compressed independent strips forming a compressed page image;

determining an amount and a location to shift the page image on the page;

shifting the compressed page image by inserting a compressed blank strip corresponding to the amount to shift the page image at the determined location on the page;

adjusting locations of the plurality of compressed independent strips according to the location of the compressed blank strip, the compressed page image and the compressed blank strip forming a shifted compressed page image;

decompressing the shifted compressed page image, and

printing the document;

~~The method of claim 3~~, wherein printing the document comprises printing two document pages per each sheet of output media, and further comprising:

for each pair of first and second page images:

determining an amount and location of gutter space to be provided between the

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first page image and the second page image;

inserting a compressed blank strip corresponding to the determined amount of gutter space at the determined location between the first shifted compressed page image and second shifted compressed page image forming a shifted compressed pair image; and

decompressing the shifted compressed pair image.